

Decision and Policy Analysis (DAPA) Research Area

The **Decision and Policy Analysis (DAPA) Research Area** of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) helps reduce global hunger and poverty by providing decision makers in the private and public sectors with novel, accurate information in interactive forms together with easy-to-use methods for analyzing agricultural systems at all levels – from farm to continent. DAPA's work is structured around three global research themes – Climate Change, Ecosystem Services, and Linking Farmers to Markets – which focus the efforts of our five expert groups. Through research projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, we improve the livelihoods of the rural poor through better decisions, practices, and policies.

Research Themes

Climate Change

Aim: Contribute to climate-smart agricultural development by strengthening adaptive capacity, while also enhancing food security, rural livelihoods, and natural resource management.

Focus: New insights and approaches ranging from analysis that supports the establishment of effective national policies to local implementation of climate-smart practices.

Ecosystem Services

Aim: Improve the provision and protection of critical ecosystem services, and promote equitable benefit sharing.

Focus: Tools and methodologies to help quantify and map ecosystem services under different climatic conditions, and appropriate practices for managing these services together with mechanisms for sharing their benefits.

Linking Farmers to Markets

Aim: Foster durable and equitable trading relationships for small-scale farmers.

Focus: Identifying and understanding key leverage points and promoting inclusive business models that enable sustained and beneficial commercial relations between farmer organizations and buyers in diverse market contexts.

Expert Groups

Gender Analysis

Promoting gender equity and equality through increased women's empowerment and research on agricultural resilience and natural resource management.

Policy Analysis

Conducting and communicating scientific analysis, whose outcomes help improve decision making at all levels.

Impact and Strategic Studies

Constructing innovative methods to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of CIAT research.

Spatial and Agricultural Modeling

Developing state-of-the-art data analysis and modeling methodologies that explain the response of agro-ecosystems to diverse environmental conditions.

Big Data

Exploring novel means to collect, analyze, and disseminate data from diverse sources in response to some of the most intractable questions of agricultural development.



Because of its cross-cutting nature, DAPA's research brings a wide array of scientific expertise to key decisions and policies aimed at reducing hunger and poverty. Advanced geographic information systems (GIS) modeling and mapping capacities, together with innovative online platforms like Terra-i, ensure that our work has global reach and strong scientific credibility.



Research Outcomes



- Widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices



- Cutting-edge information on climate change generated for the development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)



- Improved watershed management strategies that guarantee equitable benefit sharing from water use



- Improved market-based strategies that guarantee sustainable economic inclusion of rural women and men



- *Ex-ante* and *ex-post* scenarios and cost-benefit analysis for DAPA's research themes



- National and local strategies for climate change adaptation, which offer equitable resource distribution, access, and use to both women and men



- Novel modeling approaches that fill major gaps to understand how cropping systems respond to biotic and abiotic stresses.

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CGIAR is a global agricultural research partnership for a food secure future. Its science is carried out by the 15 research centers who are members of the CGIAR Consortium in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations.

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